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AF/1746

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 99,252-A)

PATENT
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JAN 29 2004
TC 1700

In re Application of:

Mertens et al.

Serial No.: 09/998,889

Filed: November 1, 2001

For: Method and Apparatus for
Removing a Liquid from a
Surface

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Saeed T. Chaudhry

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In regard to the above-identified application:

1. We are transmitting herewith the attached
 - a. Response to office Action Dated November 17, 2003; and
 - b. Return receipt postcard.
2. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2490. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
3. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper described in paragraph 1, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 20, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Date: January 20, 2004

By:

Lisa Schoedel
Lisa M. Schoedel
Reg. No. 53,564



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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants respond to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003 as follows.